

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 3 of the specification, after the description of Figure 3 in the BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES section, please add the following new paragraphs:

Figure 4 Schematic representation of a side view of a patient with esophageal placement of electrodes.

Figure 5 Schematic representation of a side view of a patient with tracheal placement of electrodes.

Figure 6 Schematic representation of a side view of a patient with jugular vein placement of electrodes.

Figure 7 Schematic representation of a side view of a patient with neck placement of electrodes.

Figure 8 Schematic representation of a side view of a patient with esophageal and neck placement of electrodes.

Figure 9 Schematic representation of a side view of a patient with esophageal and jugular vein placement of electrodes.

Figure 10 Schematic representation of a side view of a patient with esophageal and neck placement of electrodes.

Figure 11 Schematic representation of a side view of a patient with tracheal and jugular vein placement of electrodes.

Figure 12 Schematic representation of a side view of a patient with tracheal and neck placement of electrodes.

Figure 13 Schematic representation of a side view of a patient with jugular vein and neck placement of electrodes.

On page 8 of the specification, in the section titled "*Nerve Stimulation*," please replace the second paragraph (lines 5-20) with the following replacement paragraph (changes from the original are underlined):

Electrical stimulation is carried out on the right vagus nerve, preferably at a site on the neck. Other suitable locations for vagus nerve stimulation include, but are not limited to, unipolar or bipolar electrical stimulation of the right or left vagus, or both, stimulation of the vagus in the

chest after sternotomy, stimulation with a percutaneous catheter or electrode probe in the internal jugular vein, esophagus, or trachea, or combination of these. For instance, Figure 4 shows a first electrode [1] and a second electrode [2] positioned within the esophagus [3] with a means [4] for actuating at least one of said electrodes to create an electrical field effective to stimulate the vagus nerve [5]. Similarly, Figure 5 shows a first electrode [1] and a second electrode [2] positioned within the trachea [6] with a means [4] for actuating at least one of said electrodes to create an electrical field effective to stimulate the vagus nerve [5]. Figure 6 shows a first electrode [1] and a second electrode [2] positioned within the jugular vein [7] with a means [4] for actuating at least one of said electrodes to create an electrical field effective to stimulate the vagus nerve [5]. Figure 7 shows, for example, a first electrode [1] and a second electrode [2] positioned on the neck [8] with a means [4] for actuating at least one of said electrodes to create an electrical field effective to stimulate the vagus nerve [5]. Figure 8 shows a first electrode [1] positioned within the esophagus [3] and a second electrode [2] positioned within the trachea [6] with a means [4] for actuating at least one of said electrodes to create an electrical field effective to stimulate the vagus nerve [5]. Figure 9 shows a first electrode [1] positioned within the esophagus [3] and a second electrode [2] positioned within the jugular vein [7] with a means [4] for actuating at least one of said electrodes to create an electrical field effective to stimulate the vagus nerve [5]. Figure 10 shows a first electrode [1] positioned within the esophagus [3] and a second electrode [2] positioned on the neck [8] with a means [4] for actuating at least one of said electrodes to create an electrical field effective to stimulate the vagus nerve [5]. Figure 11 shows a first electrode [1] positioned within the trachea [6] and a second electrode [2] positioned within the jugular vein [7] with a means [4] for actuating at least one of said electrodes to create an electrical field effective to stimulate the vagus nerve [5]. Also, Figure 12 shows, for example, a first electrode [1] positioned within the trachea [6] and a second electrode [2] positioned on the neck [8] with a means [4] for actuating at least one of said electrodes to create an electrical field effective to stimulate

the vagus nerve [5]. Figure 13 shows, for instance, a first electrode [1] positioned within the jugular vein [7] and a second electrode [2] positioned on the neck [8] with a means [4] for actuating at least one of said electrodes to create an electrical field effective to stimulate the vagus nerve [5]. The nerve stimulator is typically a Grass wire with a single point of contact, but other suitable stimulators include a pair of pacing wires or electrodes placed about 1 cm apart to allow bipolar prodromic stimulation. A single continuous impulse is applied of between about 5 seconds to about 90 seconds, preferably between about 5 seconds and about 15 seconds, to allow a single stitch during surgery. Impulse parameters can readily be varied, e.g, a frequency range of between about 1Hz and about 500Hz, preferably between about 20 Hz to about 80Hz, more preferably about 40 Hz, with an amplitude between about 1 to about 40 volts.